

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices, comprising:
~~a plurality of storage area networks; on which is located at least one device and/or at least one host; and~~
~~a storage area network extender that connects said at least two storage area networks of the plurality of storage area networks; over a packet-based network, wherein at least one host on any storage area network is operable to access at least one device located on any storage area network of said plurality of storage area networks;~~
~~a device located on a first storage area network of the at least two storage area networks;~~
~~a first node to connect the first storage area network to the storage area network extender, wherein the first node is configured to map a first device address for the device located on the first storage area network to an intermediary device identifier;~~
~~a host located on a second storage area network of the at least two storage area networks;~~
~~a second node located on the second storage area network, wherein the second node is configured receive the intermediary device identifier from the first node via the storage area network extender and map the intermediary device identifier to a second device address accessible by the host.~~
2. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 1, wherein said storage area network extender seamlessly interconnects said at least two storage area networks.
3. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 2, wherein said plurality of storage area networks are geographically distinct.
4. (Currently Amended) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 1, ~~wherein said storage area network extender further comprise a plurality of nodes, wherein mapping a first device address for the device located on the first storage area network~~

to the intermediary device identifier further comprises mapping the first device address to a generic transport identifier; and

wherein mapping the intermediary identifier to a second device address accessible by the host further comprises mapping the generic transport identifier to the second device address.

5. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 4, wherein ~~within said nodes, device addresses are mapped to an intermediary device identifier, which in turn is mapped into an address accessible by said host wherein~~ mapping the first device address to the generic transport identifier further comprises mapping the first device address to a generic target identifier and mapping the generic target identifier to the generic transport identifier; and

wherein mapping the transport identifier to the second device address further comprises mapping the generic transport identifier and a first node address to a generic host identifier.

6. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 5, wherein said nodes comprise a Fibre channel-to-SCSI router.

7. (Currently Amended) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 5-1, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

a node identifier; and

a generic device identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 5-1, wherein ~~each of said first nodes is operable to inform said plurality of second nodes of said at least one device located on said storage area network to which said node is interfaced.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 5-1, wherein ~~said plurality of first and second storage area networks communicate over the storage area network extender via an encapsulation protocol that encapsulates fiber channel protocol messages.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method for mapping addresses of SCSI devices, comprising the steps of:

identifying a host located on a first storage area network;

identifying a device located on at least one additional storage area network;

interconnecting said first storage area network with said at least one additional storage area network via a transport layer;

mapping a device address into an intermediary device identifier at a first node connected to the at least one additional storage area network; and

mapping said intermediary device identifier into an address accessible by said host at a second node connected to the first storage area network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein said second node provides an interface between said transport layer and said first storage area network or and said second node provides an interface between said transport layer and said at least one additional storage area network comprises a node.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said step of mapping a device into said intermediary device identifier takes place at each node.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said step of mapping said intermediary device identifier into an address accessible by said host takes place at each node.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein said nodes comprise a Fibre channel-to-SCSI router.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14-10, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

a node identifier; and

a generic device identifier.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein said transport layer comprises a packet-based network.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein said storage area networks are geographically distinct.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices, comprising:

a SCSI device located on a first storage area networks within a plurality of storage area networks;

a host located on a second storage area network within said plurality of storage area networks; and

~~a plurality of nodes that connect said plurality of storage area networks to a packet-based network, wherein said nodes seamlessly interconnect said plurality of storage area networks, allowing said host to access said device.~~

a first node to connect the first storage area network to a packet based network, wherein the first node is configured to map a first device address for the SCSI device to an intermediary device identifier; and

a second node to connect the second storage area network to the packet based network, wherein the second node is configured to receive the intermediary device identifier from the first node via the storage area network extender and map the intermediary device identifier to a second device address accessible by the host.

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20. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 18, wherein at least a pair of said storage area networks within said plurality of storage area networks are geographically distinct.

21. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 18, wherein said nodes comprise a Fibre channel-to-SCSI router.

22. (Original) The system for mapping addresses of SCSI devices of Claim 18, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

a node identifier; and

a generic device identifier.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for mapping a first address of a device, comprising:

a plurality of storage area networks on which is located said device and a host; and

a storage area network extender that connects at least two storage area networks of said plurality of storage area networks over a first network; ~~wherein said host on any storage area network of said plurality of storage area networks is operable to access said device located on any storage area network of said plurality of storage area networks.~~

a device located on a first storage area network of the at least two storage area networks;

a first node to connect the first storage area network to the storage area network extender, wherein the first node is configured to map a first device address for the device located on the first storage area network to an intermediary device identifier;

a host located on a second storage area network of the at least two storage area networks;

a second node to connect second storage area network to the storage area network extender, wherein the second node is configured receive the intermediary device identifier from the first node via the storage area network extender and map the intermediary device identifier to a second device address accessible by the host.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 23, wherein said storage area network extender seamlessly interconnects said at least two storage area networks of said plurality of storage area networks.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 24, wherein said plurality of storage area networks are located at different geographical locations.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 23, ~~wherein said storage area network extender further comprise a plurality of nodes, wherein mapping a first device address for the device located on the first storage area network to the intermediary device identifier further comprises mapping the first device address to a generic transport identifier; and~~

~~wherein mapping the intermediary identifier to a second device address accessible by the host further comprises mapping the generic transport identifier to the second device address.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 26, wherein ~~within said nodes, device addresses are mapped to an intermediary device identifier, which in turn is mapped into an address accessible by said host wherein mapping the first device address to the generic transport identifier further comprises mapping the first device address to a generic target identifier and mapping the generic target identifier to the transport identifier; and wherein mapping the transport identifier to the second device address further comprises mapping the generic transport identifier and a first node address to a generic host identifier.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 27-23, wherein said device is a SCSI device, and wherein each of said nodes comprises a Fibre Channel-to-SCSI router.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 27-23, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

- a node identifier; and
- a generic device identifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 27-23, wherein ~~each first node of said plurality of nodes is operable to inform said plurality of nodes said second node of said device located on one on the first storage area network of said plurality of storage area networks.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 27-23, wherein said plurality of storage area networks communicate via an encapsulation protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said first network is a packet-based network.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 32, wherein said device is a SCSI device.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 23, wherein said device is a SCSI device.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for mapping a first address of a device, comprising:

identifying a host located on a first storage area network;

identifying said device located on a second storage area network;

interconnecting said first storage area network with said second storage area network via a transport layer;

mapping said first address into an intermediary device identifier at a first node connected to the second storage area network; and

mapping said intermediary device identifier into a second address accessible by said host at a second node connected to the first storage area network.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein an wherein said second node provides an interface between said transport layer and at least one of said first storage area network and said first node provides an interface between said transport layer and said second storage area network comprises a first node.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein:

~~a part of a system includes a plurality of nodes; and~~

mapping said first address into said intermediary device identifier takes place at each node of said plurality of nodes.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein:

~~said first node is part of a plurality of nodes; and~~

mapping said intermediary device identifier into said second address accessible by said host takes place at each node of said plurality of nodes.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein:

~~said first node is part of a plurality of nodes;~~

said device is a SCSI device; and

each one of said nodes comprises a Fibre Channel-to-SCSI router.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 39-35, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

a node identifier; and
a generic device identifier.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein said transport layer comprises a packet-based network.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36-35, wherein said first storage area network and second storage area network are located at different geographic locations.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein said device is a SCSI device.

44. (Currently Amended) A system for mapping a first address of a device, comprising:

said device located on a first storage area network within a plurality of storage area networks;

a host located on a second storage area network within said plurality of storage area networks; and

~~a plurality of nodes that connect said plurality of storage area networks, wherein said nodes seamlessly interconnect said plurality of storage area networks, allowing said host to access said device.~~

a first node to connect the first storage area network to a packet based network, wherein the first node is configured to map a first device address for the SCSI device to an intermediary device identifier;

a second node to connect the second storage area network to the packet based network, wherein the second node is configured to receive the intermediary device identifier from the first node via the storage area network extender and map the intermediary device identifier to a second device address accessible by the host .

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46. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 45-44, wherein said intermediary device identifier comprises:

a node identifier; and

a generic device identifier.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 44, wherein at least a pair of storage area networks within said plurality of storage area networks are located at different geographic locations.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 44, wherein said device is a SCSI device, and wherein each of said nodes comprises a Fibre Channel-to-SCSI router.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 44, wherein said plurality of storage area networks and each of said plurality of nodes are part of a packet-based network.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 49, wherein said device is a SCSI device.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 44, wherein said device is a SCSI device.